

# EDITORIALS

## Will Publications Continue?

"The whole is never greater than the sum of its parts." This well-known quote makes me think of publications, clubs and other organizations on campus which require a sufficient sum to become a whole. One of these to which I am extremely partial, of course, is *The Salemite*.

In a recent SGA meeting I had to announce that Publications' Board was considering the discontinuation of Salem's publications if adequate student interest was not found. I was concerned about the results of the questionnaire distributed about this issue.

Results showed a total of 290 persons, out of 311 who responded to the questionnaire, are interested in the continuation of both *The Salemite* and *Sights & Insights*. Of that 290, 79 are interested in becoming involved in *Sights & Insights*; 22 are interested in becoming involved in *The Salemite*; and 86 are interested in working on either staff.

These numbers indicate an adequate amount of student interest in Salem's future publications. Fortunately, there are enough parts to create a whole. Your support is appreciated.

Allison Bulce

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After participating in four January Terms at Salem, I have had the opportunity to try several options available to Salem students. I have listened to and observed my classmates and friends during their January programs and have arrived at some conclusions concerning the program as a whole.

It seems each year the program causes new criticism, and the rumor of its extinction is always circulating around campus during February. I know that since January is different from most academic programs it naturally and rightfully comes under close scrutiny. However, I think it would be difficult and wrong to evaluate the efficiency of January Term using a few rigid criteria.

There is also the internship which works out perfectly and the student puts her all into her work, doing extra reading and taking only 30 minutes for lunch because she wants to gain the knowledge and experience that her January program offers.

There is the case of the student doing an internship concerning her major who is eager to learn and work only to find the business or organization places her in some out-of-the-way place doing paperwork that a three-year-old could do. So, she unexcitedly puts in her 100 hours and decides that January would be the perfect time to read all those great literary works that she hasn't had the chance to read.

There is the more specific case of the class which went this January to visit a large corporation in town and hear a speaker provided by that company. This class was rude and openly uninterested in what the speaker had to say. This certainly lowered the reputation of Salem in the eyes of these people besides making it hard for other Salem students who really appreciate and utilize the facilities offered during January. These students obviously didn't set high goals for themselves during January and likewise received only what effort they put into the program.

These are only a few examples of the diverse nature of the programs being taken advantage of (or not, as the case may be) at Salem.

There are those who see courses on campus as a challenge or an enjoyable, well-deserved break from the last semester of five courses (including three labs).

During her four January Terms I think a student can realize a broad spectrum of goals and use these to her advantage in her career or life. Of those students who use January Terms for nothing more than an utter waste of time, I think they probably don't even take advantage of what Salem offers during the regular semesters. They don't realize that every new piece of information learned here, whether academic, social, or practical, can only help them.

I feel that most Salem students are responsible enough to decide what they want and need to accomplish from January Term; and I feel that the program is beneficial overall in its present format.

Sincerely,  
Karen Eudy

To the Editor:

Of the many facets of education that Salem provides for us, why aren't many students getting reasonable jobs after graduation? Many have connections for jobs, but many do not, and these are the students who need help.

We as seniors do not need to be spoon-fed by the Career Placement Office (CPO), but we need as much help as we can get. I have talked with many seniors and they all agreed on one thing: they have gotten help on their resumes and cover letters, but nothing else.

In a recent conversation with a counselor of the CPO, I was told that the rough draft of my resume looked fine except for a few changes and then I was shown where the Career Reading Room is in order to find more information about my field of interest. There was no discussion afterwards.

This may be a unique experience, but from the seniors I have talked to, past and present, this is a recurring experience.

Basically, the CPO needs to reassess its purposes and help students find jobs. Communication between the office and students is poor--the monthly letters are great, but many are either lost or thrown away. I think registration would be a good time for the office to provide cards that students could use to write down their career interests and then the office could put them in a file, pulling names when a recruiter in a particular student's field of interest is on campus.

There doesn't seem to be any reason why the CPO couldn't find out who is recruiting at Wake Forest and invite them to Salem as well. After all, it's only seven miles across town and the recruiters could stay inexpensively at the Alumnae House.

The CPO is doing a sufficient job, for the 1960s, but times have changed and women are an integral part of today's work force. We need help NOW, and to future Salemites, this help is crucial.

Mary Anne Tuggle

## The Oracle

by Judy McIlwee

*The Salemite* introduces a new column entitled "The Oracle." It is the purpose of this column to involve faculty and administration in expressing their views about pertinent issues concerning students and today's world around or beyond the square.

The issue of abortion is a very complex and difficult one. On the other hand, the issue of abortion rights is clear-cut. At any rate, that is my view of the matter. Let me explain what I mean. The question of whether and when a fetus becomes a human being, protected by the laws of the society, is a matter of philosophical and political debate. People may have sincere and deeply held beliefs on this question which contradict the beliefs of others. It cannot be answered by scientists, as a matter of objective fact. Whether human life begins at conception, at the 3rd month or the 6th month of pregnancy, at birth -- or even sometime after birth -- depends on how one defines human life. The definition has varied at different points in history and in different societies. It is, in short, a question of values, not of scientific fact.

The issue of abortion is also very complex in another way -- as it is experienced in the lives of individuals and families. Wherever and whenever unwanted pregnancy occurs -- an unmarried teenager; a single or married woman working hard to achieve her educational or career goals; a middle-aged woman with several children for whom another baby would be a costly burden, emotionally, physically and/or financially; the victim of rape or incest -- whatever the circumstances, the decision to terminate (or not to terminate) a pregnancy is painful and difficult.

There are no easy answers -- either choice involves costs, some of which cannot be known at the time.

It is an intensely personal decision, and the responsibility for it is experienced in an intensely personal way.

So abortion is complex, difficult, and involves values and personal decisions. It is precisely for these reasons that I can say that the issue of abortion rights is clear-cut. Because it is a matter, not of scientific fact but of values and personal conscience; and because its effect on the lives of the people involved is of such consequence -- it is a decision that must be made by the individual woman involved (and the man, if he is willing and able to share in it.).

The decision to have, or not to have, an abortion must be a personal one, not subject to regulation or intervention by the local, state or federal government, or any other group. There is no one standard that can be applied to this issue -- except the standard of personal conscience and choice.

## Elections ...

Petitioning for the 1982 spring elections ends Monday at 3 p.m. Campaigning begins at 8 p.m.

Primary balloting will be held Tuesday. Secondary balloting and campaign speeches will be held March 2 at a required SGA meeting.

Final balloting will be held March 4 in an additional required SGA meeting. An after elections party will be held at 4 p.m. of the same day.

To be eligible for a principle office, students must have a 2.0 or better cumulative GPA and a 2.3 or better GPA for an executive office.

If students have questions concerning elections, they should see Denise Bennick or Roberta Wood in 211 South, 725-7073.

## The Salemite

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